

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05015 161429Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06
CCO-00 /104 W
-----042217 161432Z /41

O R 161345Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2591
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: "SECURE PEACE" RALLY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR BEGIN

REF: TEL AVIV 4752

1. THE RIVAL PEACE RALLY TO COUNTER THE "PEACE NOW"
DEMONSTRATION OF APRIL 1 WAS HELD THE EVENING OF APRIL
15 IN THE SAME TEL AVIV SQUARE WHERE THE PREVIOUS RALLY
WAS HELD. ESTIMATES OF THE CROWD VARY FROM 20,000 TO
70,000. (THE POLICE HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR RELEASING
ESTIMATES OF THE PREVIOUS CROWD AND DECLINED TO MAKE A
GUESS OF THE SIZE OF THIS GROUP; ESTIMATES WE HAVE HEARD
VARY ACCORDING TO THE POLITICS OF THE ESTIMATOR. OUR
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OWN ESTIMATE WOULD BE EVEN LOWER THAN 20,000.) THE
CROWD HEARD FOUR SPEECHES, NONE BY KNOWN POLITICAL
NAMES, THEN SAW A FILM OF BEGIN AND SADAT AND HEARD
SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINERS.

2. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO AVOID COMPARISONS
BETWEEN THE TWO RALLIES. THIS ONE APPEARED SOMEWHAT

MORE PROFESSIONALLY ORGANIZED AND LESS SPONTANEOUS. THE CROWD SEEMED TO INCLUDE MORE TEL AVIVIAN THIS TIME AND THERE WERE FEWER PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER PARTS OF ISRAEL. IT WAS A MIXED GROUP AS FAR AS AGES WERE CONCERNED. HOWEVER, THIS TIME THE OLDER PARTICIPANTS APPEARED TO BE PREDOMINANTLY ASHKENAZIM AND THE YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS WERE SEPHARDIM OR MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS; THE YOUNG SECULAR ASHKENAZIM SO NOTICEABLE IN THE EARLIER RALLY WERE MISSING. GUSH EMUNIM MEMBERS WERE PRESENT AND DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE; RABBI KAHANE'S GROUP WAS ALSO PRESENT AND ANNOUNCING A DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE EMBASSY THIS WEEK. THERE WERE ALSO 20 "BEDOUINS FOR BEGIN" PRESENT, ONE OF WHOM SPOKE (AND DREW PROBABLY THE GREATEST APPLAUSE).

3. THE SPEECHES WERE MUNDANE SLOGANEERING. PLACARDS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR BEGIN AND CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ONE SLOGAN EQUATED CARTER PROMISES TO ISRAEL WITH KISSINGER PROMISES TO VIETNAM; ANOTHER PROCLAIMED "IMPOSED PEACE EQUALS SURRENDER." THE SPEAKERS WERE CRITICAL OF "PEACE NOW," SAYING ITS PROGRAM MEANT SURRENDER AND CLAIMING THAT FOREIGN MEDIA HAD DISTORTED ITS IMPACT ON THE ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE. LEWIS

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